

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PRENTICE

188

### BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS VIA TECHNOLOGY

The Board strongly encourages all individual Board members to be physically present at all Board meetings in which they intend to participate in any capacity. Individual Board members have the privilege to participate remotely in any meeting, and in emergency situations as determined by the Board President, board meetings may be held and all members may participate through virtual or remote conferencing methods. No individual Board member may be excluded from any meeting of the School Board at which he or she is physically present.

Subject to the following limitations, and as a privilege that may be withdrawn or limited at the discretion of a majority vote of the Board, the Board will permit an individual Board member with a scheduling conflict or, in an emergency situation as determined by the Board President, any or all board members to participate in Board meetings from a remote location, with such privilege to include being counted in the quorum requirement for the meeting, participating in discussion on items of business, and making and voting upon motions:

1. The District Administrator will work with appropriate staff to identify an appropriate mode of technology that enables reliable two-way communication and that satisfies the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law requirements regarding public notice and public accessibility of meetings;
2. Absent further affirmative authorization enacted by the Board except in emergency situations as determined by the Board President, the privilege shall extend only to open sessions of regular and special meetings of the school board, and shall not extend to closed session portion(s) of any meeting, to individual student disciplinary proceedings, to disciplinary or nonrenewal proceedings involving individual employees, or to other meetings or specific items of business on which the Board decides or receives advice of legal counsel that it would be inadvisable to permit remote participation by individual Board members;
3. No School Board meeting need be delayed, cancelled, or rescheduled solely to accommodate a Board member's request to exercise the privilege of remote participation. To the extent that the technology used to enable remote participation is not functioning so as to facilitate appropriate participation and/or there is any uncertainty regarding compliance with the Open Meetings Law, the Board may terminate the privilege of remote participation, and, provided there is a quorum, the meeting(s) in question may continue without the participation of the Board member(s) who are not physically present;
4. Except in emergency situations as determined by the Board President, no meeting of the School Board shall be convened unless at least a quorum of the Board is physically present at the location of the meeting as established by the official public notice. In emergency situations, a quorum of the Board may be established by board members participating in the meeting through virtual or remote conferencing.

To lessen the risk that a technical limitation or technology-related problem may prevent otherwise-authorized remote participation in a Board meeting, an individual Board member who wishes to exercise the privilege of remote participation in any meeting shall inform the District Administrator and presiding officer of the meeting as far in advance as possible of his or her desire to attempt remote participation.

Notwithstanding the discretionary privileges permitted under this policy, it is the School Board's expectation that no Board member(s) will routinely seek to participate in meetings from a remote location, and that most regular and special meetings of the Board will involve no remote participation by any Board members.

This policy shall also apply to Board committee meetings where the committee in question is a subunit of the School Board, except that in the case of such a committee meeting, references to individual Board members within this policy shall be understood to refer to individual committee members, and all discretionary authority held by the School Board under this policy shall be held by the committee.

Legal Ref.: Sections 19.59 Wisconsin Statutes

19.82(2)  
19.84  
19.88  
61.23(1)  
62.09(5)(d)  
63.07  
118.22(3)  
120.11(1)  
946.13

Cross Ref.: 171.1, Public Notification of Board Meetings

173, Closed Sessions  
185, Board Committees  
185-Rule (1), Board Committee Guidelines  
186, Public Participation at Board Meetings

Approved: May 19, 2020